**Setting up of auction platforms by tobacco Board**

1935. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board will set up pilot or experimental auction platforms for sale of beedi tobacco;

(b) if so, the areas selected for setting up such auction platforms for Beedi tobacco;

(c) whether any preliminary survey has been done in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A preliminary survey was conducted in beedi tobacco growing States i.e. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka regarding internal marketing of Non-Virginia Tobacco.

**Agricultural labourers in Gujarat**

1936. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a a fact that there are no specific schemes for the agricultural labourers in the backward areas of Gujarat as a result of which certain areas are being developed and others are neglected there; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor together with Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Revision of Prices by MNCs**

1937. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Colgate Palmolive India Limited, Hindustan Livers, Ponds India Limited like multi-national companies revise the prices of their products periodically;

(b) if so, how many times were the prices revised by these companies of their products during the last three years;

(c) whether these companies give dealer schemes on tooth brush etc. on ragular basis but the same are not given to Super Bazar;

(d) if so, the details of the dealer schemes given by these companies during the last three years and the reasons for not giving the same to Super Bazar; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that during the last three years M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd., M/s Ponds India Ltd. and M/s Colgate Palmolive India Ltd. have revised the prices of various items on 87, 32 and 59 occasions respectively.

(c) to (e) Super Bazar has reported that not all the schemes of these companies which are meant for the dealers are passed on to Super Bazar. Details of such dealer schemes of different companies are not maintained. Central Government has written to M/s Indian Soap and Toiletries Makers Association to extend such Sales Promotion Schemes to leading Consumer Cooperative Stores also.

**रायगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश में बहु-उद्देशीय केलो परियोजना का निर्माण**

1938. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मंत्रायल को रायगढ़ जिले में बहु-उद्देशीय "केलो" परियोजना के निर्माण को स्वीकृति प्रदान करने के लिये मध्य प्रदेश सरकार का प्रस्ताव और अनुरोध कब प्राप्त हुआ;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 1994-95 तक इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ग) इस परियोजना के निर्माण के लिए स्वीकृति प्रदान करने में मुख्य कठिनाई क्या है और राज्य सरकार तथा केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा अपने-अपने स्तर पर की गई पहल का ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में की गई वास्तविक उपलब्धियां क्या-क्या है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमंग): (क) से (ग) केलो सिंचाई परियोजना (अनुमानित लागत 57.88 करोड़ रुपये) के लिए प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय जल आयोग को मई, 1988 में प्राप्त हुई थी। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को कोयला खानों में पानी भराव के संबंध में कोयला मंत्रालय से और पर्यावरणी तथ वानिकी दृष्टि से पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय से स्वीकृति लेने को कहा गया है। केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार राज्य सरकार को इन अपेक्षाओं को अभी पूरा करना है।

**Workers stranded in Saudi Arabia**

1939. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports appearing in the 'Press' indicating that more than 300 Indian expatriates have been stranded in Saudi Arabia after their sponsor brought them to Saudi Arabia in violation of labour laws and had died in a fire;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these reports, also indicate that these stranded Indian workers have not been provided with any shelter in the absence of a sponsore or any job;

(d) whether Government propose to take action against the officials of emigration Department of the Ministry for their lapses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Shri Ibrahim Al-Faisal, a Saudi national, took some Indian workers to Saudi Arabia on forged Visas. When it came to the notice of Saudi authorities, a foregery case was registered against him. He was arrested and put in the jail. He got out of jail on bail. Fearing punishment, he committed suicide by setting himself afire. As per report of Consulate General of India at Jeddah, the workers at present in Saudi Arabia who have come under the sponsorship of Mr. Ibrahim Al-Faisal are much less than the figure of 300 as so far only 81 workers have approached them for help. Only 3 of the them want to come to India and the remaining 78 workers are trying for change of sponsorship. Only 2 of these workers are without proper job and all other are gainfully employed. The Consulate General have approached the concerned Saudi authorities to sort out the problem.

(d) and (e) Apparently there is no lapse on the part of Emigration authorities as the Saudi sponsor had brought Indian workers on forged visas.

**International Trade Balance**

1940. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exports and imports of the country during the last three years;

(b) the international trade balance in terms of imports and exports; and

(c) what was the component of electricity, agriculture, industry etc. for the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The exports, imports and the trade balance of India during the last three years are as follows:—

| | (Value in US $ Million) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Exports | Imports | Trade Balance |
| 1992-93 | 18537 | 21882 | —3345 |
| 1993-94 | 22238 | 23306 | —1068 |
| 1994-95(P) | 26223 | 28251 | —2028 |

(P): Provisional

(c) The percentage share of agriculture and manufacturing products in the total exports of the country for the last three years is as under:—

| | Agriculture | Mfg. product |
|---|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 18 | 76 |
| 1993-94 | 19 | 76 |
| 1994-95 | 16 | 77 |

It is difficult to quantity the component of Agriculture and Industry in total imports, Electricity is an input in the production process and it is difficult to quantify its share in imports and exports since there is no direct nexus between them. Electricity, as such, is not being exported by India.